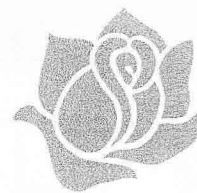


Roseville Legend



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J. W. McCoy's "Dutch Ware"

By James L. Murphy

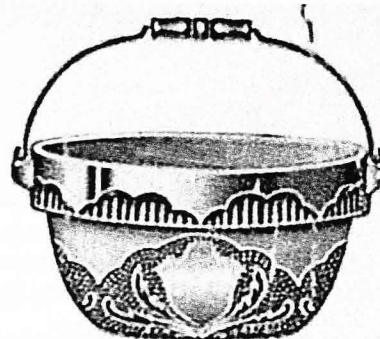
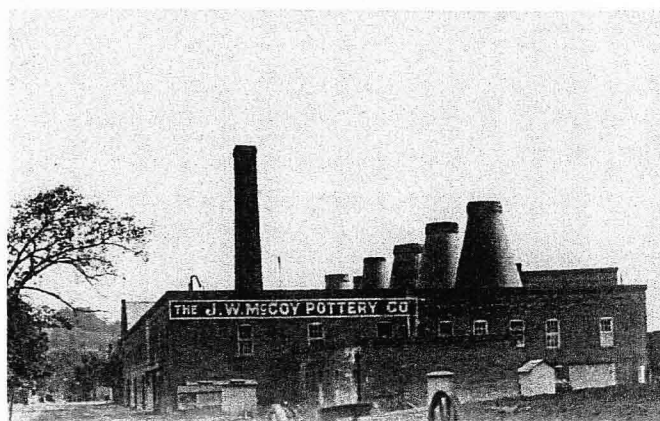
Readers of the classified section of the September 20, 1908, issue of the *San Antonio Light* were given an intriguing offer:

"AGENTS WANTED...To sell our 5-piece set of Blue-Lined Dutch Cooking Ware to consumers. The greatest money-making proposition ever offered to canvassers. One party sold 48 sets in eight hours, making him a profit of \$24.00. He is now handling a crew of 10 people and ordering in carload lots. If you mean business send us 15 cents to cover postage on complete canvassing outfit with which to begin work. The J. W. McCoy Pottery Co., Roseville, Ohio."

It is not known how widely the J. W. McCoy Pottery published their advertisement or how well received it was, but thus far this is the only known published reference to J. W. McCoy's "Dutch Ware" line of cooking ware. There is no mention of it as such in any of the many books on McCoy and Brush-McCoy pottery. Nor does the fact that it was "blue-lined" help much, as this was a common feature in turn-of-the-century earthenware cooking ware.

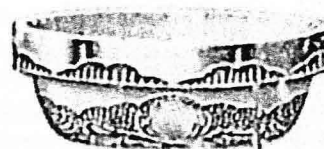
Shortly after the Brush Pottery burned in July 1999, it was noted that parts of the remaining base of the west wall had collapsed, letting small quantities of soil and pottery sherds to spill out. A sample of these revealed colorful sherds of early Brush and possibly even J.W. McCoy blended glaze ware shapes, as well as sherds of Nu-Rock, Brush-McCoy's Dandy Line yellowware, and many pieces of McCoy's distinctive Bohemian cooking ware. No pieces of Mt. Pelee or Rosewood were found, but numerous sherds of later Brush-McCoy and Brush lines occurred.

Unfortunately, only a small "grab sample" was obtained and no formal archaeological study was possible. It was hoped that with the eventual removal of the remaining Brush Pottery ruins and development of the site it would be possible to obtain a larger sample if not actually conduct an archaeological excavation. Such was not the case, however, as Village officials claimed they did not have the authority to let anyone collect anything from the site after the property had been put up for bidding.



Stew or Preserve Kettle

2 qt., Banded, very best, Doz. \$1.44
4 qt., " " " " " 1.92



Baking Pan

7 in., Extra Fine, Doz. 1.00
9 in., " " " " " 1.20

Photo top, a view of the J. W. McCoy Pottery Company (undated); Photo below, J.W. McCoy catalog sheet c. 1911, showing the "Dutch Ware" line, identified only as "Carved" without reference to the name "Dutch Ware" line. [Photos courtesy of the James L. Murphy.]

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J. W. McCoy's "Dutch Ware" (Continued from Page 1)

Later, after the concrete flooring was removed, the official word was that there were no archaeological materials beneath the floor, but this was obviously incorrect to anyone who took the time to walk around the perimeter of the site. In terms of Roseville history and the history of Ohio ceramics, it is nothing less than a tragedy that this opportunity to learn more about Roseville's ceramic history was ignored and forestalled.

How does this complaint relate to the San Antonio newspaper advertisement? Among the few pottery sherds fortuitously collected from the site in 2000, is a single fragment of a blue-lined mixing bowl with fancy molded design on the side and an elaborate mark on the bottom. The preserved letters "DUT...ARE" leave no doubt that this is a unique sherd of **J. W. McCoy's "Dutch Ware"** and is the only material evidence that "Dutch Ware" was made at this site. There is no record of the elaborate mark, even in Lois Lehner's comprehensive "Encyclopedia of Marks" (Lehner 1988).

While no complete examples of McCoy's "Dutch Ware" are available, the Sanford's, interestingly, have illustrated an example, as well as two catalog pages (one dated 1911), although they do not recognize the pieces as "Dutch Ware." For some reason the Sanfords describe the pieces only as "Carved," as in "Carved and Bailed" or "Blue Decorated and Carved," which is not accurate, since the cooking ware was molded, not carved, and they nowhere describe the (presumably) marked base (Sanford and Sanford 1996: 46-47).

Happily, the salvaged "Dutch Ware" sherd from the Brush site is complete enough to demonstrate that the embossed design on the sides of the Stew or Preserve Kettle matches that shown in the Sanford catalog pages. The base of the tulip-shaped design, as well as the curlicue design along the base and even the raised bumps or pustules forming the background of the design are visible.

The Sanford's also illustrate a "Blue Decorated and Carved Baking Pan" that clearly is an example of **McCoy's "Dutch Ware"**, although the embossed design is difficult to see because of additional blue spongeware decoration.



Photo, top, the letters "DUT" and "ARE" are clearly shown on the bottom of a unique sherd of the J.W. McCoy "Dutch Ware" line. Photo, middle, a fragment of a blue-lined mixing bowl with fancy molded design on the side. [Photos provided by James L. Murphy]. Photo, bottom, a view of the dirt and debris following the demolition of the Brush Pottery building in August 2010. [Photo provided by the Village of Roseville. Our thanks to Heidi Milner.]

So, now we know just what J. W. McCoy's "Dutch Ware" looks like, we know that the Sanford's "Carved" ware should be called "Dutch Ware", and we know that it was made from at least 1908 to 1911. What we don't know—and probably never will know-- is how much else could be learned if an adequate archaeological sample could have been retrieved from the **Brush Pottery** site.

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